



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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**Release 2004-46**

### **Water Managers On The Lookout For Illegal Diversions**

For Immediate Release  
Boise, Idaho – October 4, 2004

For Media Information Contact:  
Cindy Yenter - (208) 736-3033

The North Side Canal Company will cease deliveries by the end of this week. Water managers are concerned that this may cause an increase in illegal water diversions within the North Side Canal Company service area, as irrigators may be tempted to “spread” or “share” water from a neighboring well, without a valid water right, to finish a crop or to make late-season irrigation applications on new seedings. Officials from the Idaho Department of Water Resources are warning that these informal arrangements are not legal. Unauthorized uses of ground water could result in curtailment of the diversion, a Notice of Violation from the state, or both.

Staff from Water District 130, with jurisdiction over deep wells in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, will be watching for unauthorized diversions of ground water on lands usually irrigated with North Side Canal Company shares. The areas of concern are mostly in Gooding and Jerome Counties. Watermaster Cindy Yenter says that supplemental irrigation wells with valid water rights are allowed to divert through October 31 of this year, but operators should be sure they know which lands and how many acres they are authorized to irrigate.

After October 31, 2004 all irrigation diversions from ground water throughout Water District 130 must cease. Any diversions occurring after that date will be subject to immediate curtailment.

Temporary water transfers, for acres, which have lost their ordinary supply of irrigation water, may be available within those counties, which have received a drought declaration. If approved on eligible lands, these temporary transfers may authorize the use of water through October 31 this year. The fee for a temporary transfer emergency change is \$50; applications are usually approved within 48 hours. There are some restrictions, and all temporary changes within Water Districts will be administered by local watermasters.

If you have questions regarding your water rights, or would like to file for a temporary emergency water right transfer, please contact the Department of Water Resources office or the Water District 130 watermaster in Twin Falls at 736-3033.

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